

In recognition of the need for all Americans to become involved in the ongoing fight against cardiovascular diseases, the Congress, by Joint Resolution approved December 30, 1963 (77 Stat. 843; 36 U.S.C. 169b), has requested that the President issue an annual proclamation designating February as "American Heart Month."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of February 1993 as American Heart Month. I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to combatting cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 15, and was published in the Federal Register on February 17.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Democratic Congressional Leaders *February 15, 1993*

Economic Program Presentation

Q. Are you going to appear before Congress, Mr. President, in parliamentary-style Q&A?

The President. That hasn't been resolved yet. I'm interested, but we haven't finalized—

Q. What would determine it?

The President. We just haven't resolved it yet. We'll probably know by the end of the day.

Q. Is Wednesday night's speech shaping up as the most important of your life?

The President. Well, I don't [*inaudible*]. In the sense that every one—the ones that are ahead are more important than the ones that are behind. [*Laughter*]

I think tonight is important. I think Wednesday night is important. But you know, we're trying to change a direction of 12 years and take a new course. I'm going to offer a program that will create half a million or more jobs in the short run; that is highly progressive; that is very well balanced; that is faithful to the great middle class of this country and good for the things that we care about, jobs and education and health care. But I think it's going to be very important that I sell it to the Congress and to the American people and that we have a partnership here. So yes, [*inaudible*].

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:22 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Democratic Congressional Leaders *February 15, 1993*

Energy Tax

Q. Mr. President, if I could ask a specific question. What is—

The President. —I thought specific— [*laughter*].

Q. You don't have to get into too much detail, but from your perspective what's more progressive, a broad-based energy tax based on BTU's or an ad valorem-type of energy tax? What would be more progressive for the middle class?

The President. Well, I think, first of all, it's hard to—you can't evaluate one of these things without seeing the whole package. But I think a BTU tax is, because an ad valorem tax reinforces price changes. In other words, if you have an ad valorem tax and the price of one fuel goes up, then the tax rate goes up. So, it would aggravate whatever price changes are out there in the market, and that would hurt the consumers more.